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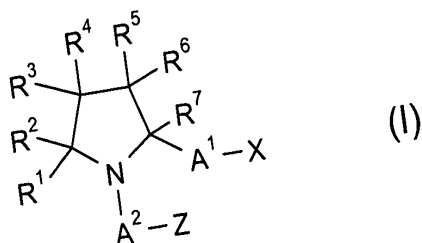
Please amend the above-captioned

Please amend claims 31, 57 and 59 without prejudice.

marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached as an

enclosure (clean text; a

31. (Amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

R¹ to R⁷ are independently selected from H, optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl and C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, OH, halogen, CN, OR<sup>12</sup>, SR<sup>12</sup>, COR<sup>12</sup>, COOR<sup>12</sup>, SOR<sup>12</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>13</sup>R<sup>14</sup>, CONR<sup>13</sup>R<sup>14</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>13</sup>R<sup>14</sup>, where R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> are independently selected from H and C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl and R<sup>12</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; two of R¹ to R⁷, together with the atoms connecting them, each may form a 3- to 6-membered ring system, which ring system may contain one or more heteroatoms; at least one of the pairs R¹ and R²; R³ and R⁴; and R⁵ and R⁶ may be replaced by an optionally substituted alkylidene group or =O; and two of R¹ to R⁷ which are positioned at adjacent carbon atoms may each be replaced by a C-C bond;

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*C1*  
*Control*

$A^1$  is selected from  $(-CR^8R^9)_n$ , optional combination of these groups,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  being independent, cycloalkylene and a halogen, OH,  $OR^{12}$  and  $NR^{13}R^{14}$  and where for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are different in each group and two groups selected from  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  at adjacent C atoms are linked by a C-C bond, and a group -O- or -CO- may be positioned between two adjacent groups; and wherein one of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be combined with one of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$  to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and  $n = 1, 2, 3$  or  $4$ ;

X is selected from COOM and groups which can be converted into COOM under physiological conditions, M being selected from H and pharmaceutically acceptable cations;

$A^2$  is  $(-CR^{10}R^{11})_m$ , where  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently selected from H,  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl and halogen; where for  $m \geq 2$  the groups  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  may be different in each group, a group -O- or -S- may be positioned between two adjacent groups  $-CR^{10}R^{11}-$ , and two groups selected from  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond; and wherein one of  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  may be combined with one of  $R^1$  to  $R^9$  to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and  $m$  is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

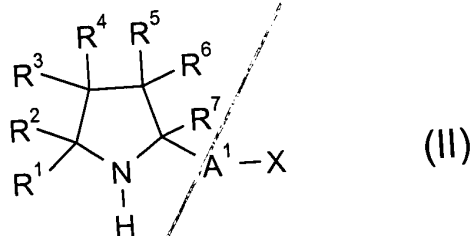
Z is selected from  $Y_3C-O-$ ,  $Y_2C=CR^{15}-$  and  $Y_2C=N-O-$ , where  $R^{15}$  is selected from H,  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or halogen and the groups Y are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{6-12}$  aryl and optionally substituted  $C_{2-5}$  heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, and the groups Y may be linked by a covalent bond

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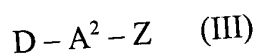
or by groups between atoms belonging to different groups Y, said groups selected from -O-,  
-S-, -NH-, -O-, -CH=CH-, -CH=N-, -CH<sub>2</sub>- and -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-;

as well as the individual stereoisomers of these compounds.

57. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim  
31, wherein a compound of formula (II)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>7</sup>, A<sup>1</sup> and X are as defined in claim 31 is reacted with a compound of formula  
(III):

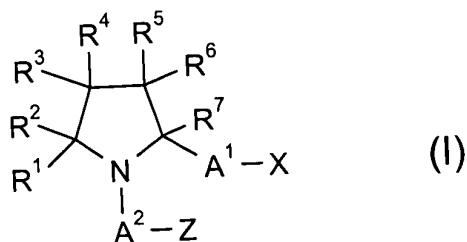


wherein A<sup>2</sup> and Z are defined as in claim 31 and D represents a group which can react with  
the group N-H of the compound of formula (II) to form HD.

59. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one of a pharma-

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aceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and at least one compound of formula (I):



wherein

$R^1$  to  $R^7$  are independently selected from H, optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl and  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, OH, halogen, CN,  $OR^{12}$ ,  $SR^{12}$ ,  $COR^{12}$ ,  $COOR^{12}$ ,  $SOR^{12}$ ,  $SO_2R^{12}$ ,  $NR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $CONR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{13}R^{14}$ , where  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are independently selected from H and  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl and  $R^{12}$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl; two of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$ , together with the atoms connecting them, each may form a 3- to 6-membered ring system, which ring system may contain one or more heteroatoms; at least one of the pairs  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ ;  $R^3$  and  $R^4$ ; and  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  may be replaced by an optionally substituted alkylidene group or  $=O$ ; and two of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$  which are positioned at adjacent carbon atoms may each be replaced by a C-C bond;

$A^1$  is selected from  $(-CR^8R^9-)_n$ , optionally substituted  $C_{3-6}$  cycloalkylene and a combination of these groups,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  being independently selected from H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, halogen, OH,  $OR^{12}$  and  $NR^{13}R^{14}$  and where for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be different in each

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group and two groups selected from  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond, and a group -O- or -CO- may be positioned between two adjacent groups  $CR^8R^9$ ; and wherein one of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be combined with one of  $R^1$  to  $R^7$  to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and  $n = 1, 2, 3$  or  $4$ ;

C3  
Intel  
X is selected from COOM and groups which can be converted into COOM under physiological conditions, M being selected from H and pharmaceutically acceptable cations;

$A^2$  is  $(-CR^{10}R^{11})_m$ , where  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are independently selected from H,  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl and halogen; where for  $m \geq 2$  the groups  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  may be different in each group, a group -O- or -S- may be positioned between two adjacent groups  $-CR^{10}R^{11}-$ , and two groups selected from  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond; and wherein one of  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  may be combined with one of  $R^1$  to  $R^9$  to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and  $m$  is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Z is selected from  $Y_3C-O-$ ,  $Y_2C=CR^{15}-$  and  $Y_2C=N-O-$ , where  $R^{15}$  is selected from H,  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or halogen and the groups Y are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{6-12}$  aryl and optionally substituted  $C_{2-5}$  heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, and the groups Y may be linked by a covalent bond or by groups between atoms belonging to different groups Y, said groups selected from -O-, -S-, -NH-, -O-, -CH=CH-, -CH=N-, -CH<sub>2</sub>- and -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-.